

MAYOR ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS



# CITIZEN SUMMIT IV: LIFTING **ALL** COMMUNITIES

*Come Together*

*Work Together*

*Succeed Together*



## PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

## DEAR CITIZEN:

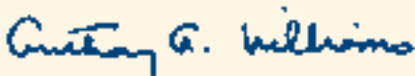
Six years ago, I joined residents of the District of Columbia and launched a day-long town hall meeting aimed at creating a new way for citizens to be part of the District Government's decision making process. Today, during our fourth Citizen Summit, you will have a chance again to engage in dialogue with your neighbors and help shape the future of our Nation's Capital.

This summit will be my last summit as your mayor, as I have decided not to seek a third term. But these summits are not mine – they belong to you, the residents of the District of Columbia. The bottom line is that together, we have made tough choices about our city's policies and priorities. And today is your chance to articulate what those should be over the coming years. By making these decisions together, our city will have thriving neighborhoods across the District where people can shop, work, play, and live.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in Citizen Summit IV and for lending your voice in so many other ways – like at civic and neighborhood association meetings or Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings.

When my second term as Mayor ends, it's my hope that I leave a legacy of citizen engagement, because when government and citizens work together, we create an even brighter future for the District of Columbia and *Lift All Communities*.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor



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## CITIZEN SUMMIT IV: LIFTING ALL COMMUNITIES

The theme for today's Citizen Summit is "*Lifting All Communities*." What does this mean? Simply put, we must ensure that our city provides places for our citizens to live, adequate training and job opportunities, activities that support our youth, and high-quality educational resources. It means sharing the burdens and the responsibilities more equitably. It means sharing in the belief that *together* we can make the District a better place...for all of us.

While the District has made extraordinary advances, too many people and too many communities have yet to be lifted. There is no doubt that our city's historical legacy of racial and political exclusion – and the uneven progress since the civil rights era – has made and continues to make change difficult. If we do not address the disparities within our borders, we may ultimately undo all our hard work. To continue our forward progress, we must ensure that we lift all of our communities.

Once mired in the problems of the past, our city now enjoys a firm foundation.

- We are much safer, as overall crime has decreased by 28% from 1998-2004 and has continued to drop in 2005.
- We are in better fiscal health, as the District achieved eight consecutive balanced budgets over the past eight years.
- We are a major player in regional affairs and enjoy a new level of respect from Congress and federal agencies.

However, our growth and progress have been uneven. Many residents and communities still face significant hardships.

- Nearly 37% of District children still live in poverty.
- Even though the District has created jobs, the unemployment rate for District residents remains high.
- Many of our public resources, such as libraries, are in poor condition.
- Affordable housing continues to be a challenge.

Every two years, citizens come together and directly advise the Mayor and his Cabinet on the policies and programs they want to see implemented. The first Citizen Summit, held in 1999, brought together 3,000 people from across the District of Columbia. Since then, more than 10,000 residents have participated in this process.

In direct response to recommendations made at Citizen Summit III in 2003, the District has invested:

- \$8 million to support youth activities.
- \$9 million to expand job programs.
- \$60 million to expand health care for the uninsured.





- \$320 million to support the development of affordable housing units.
- \$200 million to fund capital investment for parks and recreation facilities.

But to be a truly great city, the District must become more inclusive. That is why we are here today. There are many ways we can make our city more inclusive – in our strategies supporting youth, in how we offer

job training, in how we use our libraries, and in where we locate housing. Today, we need you to:

- Tell us what you think of these ideas.
- Tell us where we need to do things differently and how.

Together, let's figure out how we can "*Lift All Communities.*"

## THE PLAN FOR TODAY

### What will we be doing today?

Today, you and your fellow citizens will help create a set of recommendations for the Mayor and the government in four areas: youth development, jobs, libraries, and housing. In doing so, you will ensure decision-makers hear the voices of average citizens and that government initiatives receive input from those who will be most affected.

The results of the Citizen Summit will be critical to shaping policy and impacting the

final direction of the District budget in these key areas. The budget process has already begun. Your recommendations will be used to determine which initiatives to increase, reduce, or move in a new direction.

### How will the day work?

- **Facilitated Table Discussions.** You will be seated with a group of fellow citizens to discuss plans and policies the District has developed, and to provide comments and recommendations. A trained facilitator at your table will keep the conversation moving and, importantly, make sure every voice at the table is heard. A note-taker will record the conversation on a computer.
- **Discussion Guide.** This discussion guide has helpful background information on the issues that will be discussed today.
- **Keypad Voting.** Throughout the day, you will use the keypads on your table to answer questions and vote on your preferences. You will see the results of the voting on the large screens and will know right away how everyone in the room feels about these issues.





- **Theming.** Notes from your table conversations will be transmitted electronically to a team of people who will review them, pull out common themes, and summarize them. You will see this information on the large screens, and it will be used to help make final recommendations.
- **Citizen Summit Report.** Before you leave today, you will get a preliminary report of the Summit's recommendations. In a few weeks, a more detailed report on the events of the day and the recommendations will be available on the Office of Neighborhood Action and Citizen Summit websites.

## What do we need from you?

Participants will find that their fellow citizens are wise, have valuable experiences to bring to the table, and have important things to say. Through this experience, they are reminded that there is too much emphasis on what divides us and not enough on how we can come together for the common good.

Today, we ask that you participate fully – that you put forth your best ideas, listen carefully and respectfully to what others have to say, and be open to working together.

# SUPPORTING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUTH

## What is the current situation in the District?

When looking to measure the well-being of all communities, we must turn to our youth, the future of our city. Our young people are at a crossroads in life. So full of promise—yet so vulnerable. It is our responsibility to “do right” by them.

Our youth are bright individuals who want to succeed. Across the city, DC youth can be found marching in award-winning school bands, tutoring their younger peers, lending a hand to elderly neighbors, and exercising their leadership in local civic organizations.

- In the summer of 2005, more than 10,000 youth were employed through the “Passport-to-Work” Summer Youth Employment Program.
- Our young people are going to college in record numbers. Between 1998 and 2002, the number of DC high school graduates who enrolled for the first time in a college or university increased by 28%.
- Many of our youth are becoming civic leaders, taking advantage of training opportunities and serving on advisory councils to the police department and children and family services.

However, our young people grapple with numerous challenges and make choices with, or without, our help. Unfortunately, too many youth in the District:

- Need mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Commit violent crimes, resulting in 390 arrests in 2004.
- Skip or drop out of school completely. Thirty-five percent of all DC students drop out of high school.



## What does the District want to do about it?

The District is committed to a positive youth development strategy, one that goes beyond seeking to keep youth out of trouble. The approach is to help our young people (1) feel safe, valued, and useful and (2) build skills and competencies to function in and contribute to society successfully.

*The plan for supporting all youth.* The plan involves making existing programs more effective. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways, such as expanding the variety and operating hours of recreational programs or partnering closely with community-based organizations to increase the quality of out-of-school time activities.

Program types will vary with different age groups (childhood at 12 and under, adolescence at ages 13-18, and young adult at 19-24) and community needs. For example, all District youth might participate in programs such as dance and music production or creative writing. Adolescent programs must have a different look and feel from elementary school age programs. Programs for adolescents might include



health education, entrepreneurship training, or college preparation. Programs for young adults might be offered at different hours and be more focused on literacy, GED completion, job training, or parenting skills.

*The plan for supporting youth most at risk.*

In addition to traditional disciplinary measures, youth engaged in criminal activities also need support and positive opportunities to help them become law-abiding citizens. The District is developing community-based alternatives to detention for youth who are not a danger to the community. These alternatives would also encourage greater parent accountability and require parent participation in their children's rehabilitation process.

Parental accountability, cited as a high priority in addressing juvenile crime at the last Citizen Summit and many public meetings, is addressed in the Omnibus Juvenile Justice Act of 2004. Under this law, the court:

- May order youth who have been declared delinquent and/or their parents to pay restitution to the youth's victims or perform community service if it finds that youth and/or their parents are financially unable to pay.
- Shall order parents to participate in their children's rehabilitation by mandating attendance at juvenile proceedings, parenting classes, counseling, treatment, or educational programs, where appropriate and in the youth's best interest.

Some have suggested:

- Community service and restitution should be required of all juvenile offenders and their parents.
- Parents should be supervised by probation officers, who monitor activities to strengthen the families and hold parents accountable (Merced County, CA).
- Parents whose children are party to gun offenses are required to attend a seven-



week workshop series about gun-related offenses or face incarceration themselves (Jefferson County, AL ).

## What do we need from you today?

Keeping in mind the need to lift all of our citizens – and especially our young people – the District wants your input on its youth development strategy. Consider the discussion questions:

[illegible]

*Want to know more about this issue?  
Go to page 12*

# IMPROVING JOB PROSPECTS FOR ALL CITIZENS

## What is the current situation in the District?

Over the last six years, the District has experienced a boom in job creation that has helped many households and boosted the city's revenues. However, the employment boom has not lifted all communities equally. Approximately 6% of all residents are still unemployed, and in some neighborhoods, the rate of unemployment reaches as high as 20%. It's not enough to create new jobs when our neediest citizens are unable to join the growing workforce.

**Barriers to employment have not been addressed.** One reason for persistent unemployment rates, despite job growth, is that getting and keeping a job requires training that many of our residents cannot complete. Over the last 3 years, 40% of adults who selected occupational training and skills programs *did not* complete them. Why can't they complete training and stay on the job? Because too many of these adults face challenges that make short and long-term employment very difficult, if not impossible:

- Many residents can't properly read or write. One in three District residents reads at or below a third-grade level.
- Some residents have medical, physical, mental health, or substance abuse concerns. Nearly one in ten residents are addicted to illegal drugs or alcohol.
- Many residents are homeless. In 2002 and 2003, approximately 16,000-17,500 residents were homeless at some point during the year and as many as 2,000 lived either in shelters or on the streets.

**Additional resources need to be directed toward those residents who are job ready.** Among those citizens who *are* able to keep a job, many are employed in low-wage jobs

with limited opportunities for advancement. Consequently, they fail to stay on these jobs for extended periods of time. With better preparation, this segment of the population could enter the workforce with higher-level skills, and, therefore, be more likely to remain employed.

Whether the issue is barriers to employment or frustrations with dead-end jobs, the numbers tell the story. One local construction contractor recently agreed to make sure 51% of his workers would be District residents. The Department of Employment Services trained, screened, and placed 16 people on this job. Most of these workers failed to show on the first day of work. Of those who came, several said the work was "too hard," and quickly quit. Others had sporadic attendance and were ultimately let go. In the end, only 2 of the original 16 were employed.

## What does the District want to do about it?

Everyone in the District should benefit from our job creation boom – not just some people in some parts of the city. During FY 2005, the District launched the **Way to Work Initiative** to increase employment opportunities for residents—especially in communities most in need—and to ensure that residents benefit from the city's increase in jobs. (*For more information on the Way to Work Initiative, go to page 14*). However, we need to do a better job of using our resources more effectively to help all workers. Therefore, the District is planning to *realign* its social services





they receive workforce development. Those supportive services may include referrals for childcare, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, and housing assistance.

- Target workforce development services, including occupational skills training, life skills/job-readiness training, and academic enrichment, to those who are ready to work.

## What do we need from you today?

The District wants your input on this shift in strategy. Consider the discussion questions:

resources and workforce development funding to:

- Reduce barriers to employment.
- Increase opportunities for job ready residents.
- Upgrade the skills of the underemployed.

***The plan for reducing barriers to employment.*** Job training will not resolve problems that have taken years to develop (and have little to do with job skills). Residents who face barriers to employment will be linked with social services support in order to resolve their most pressing concerns.

***The plan for helping the job-ready.*** Low-wage, low-skill jobs do not create a foundation for economic success. The District will train job-ready but unemployed residents so they can get better jobs, and will provide this training to those who are underemployed so they can advance to higher positions.

In addition to the ***Way to Work Initiative***, the District is discussing realigning social services and workforce development resources to:

- Provide people who are not job ready with the supportive services they need *before*

***Want to know more about this issue?  
Go to page 14***

# BUILDING A GREAT PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR ALL CITIZENS

## What is the status of the DC Public Libraries?

A public library provides citizens with access to information and services regardless of race, income, or age. A great library system is a visible symbol of the importance a city places on learning, increasing literacy, sharing knowledge, and serving all of its communities.

The District's 27 branch public library system is in severe disrepair. Half of the outdated collections need to be replaced. Most of the libraries are inadequate, with some facilities in far worse shape than others. In many ways, our library system is a living example of how a failure to lift all communities can keep us all down.

Many of the District's public libraries:

- Do not have enough computers.
- Are poorly maintained and unattractive.
- Have unreliable records of what is in their collection.
- Offer limited literacy or GED classes for adults and tutoring for children and youth.



## What does the District want to do about it?

The "Mayor's Task Force on the Future of the District of Columbia Public Library System" was established in September 2004 to assess the situation and make recommendations for the implementation of a District-wide plan. The Task Force concluded that our city needs a 21st century library system— one that combines new high-tech buildings with "virtual" branches in cyberspace. A rebuilt system – with a new central library and renovated branches – would provide safe and inviting places for learning at all ages and serve as a welcome site for community gatherings.

For years, libraries were viewed as structures that simply offered books, resources, and other information. Public libraries are now becoming more effective economic, cultural, educational, and social partners in the community. Increasingly, public libraries seek to meet the vast needs of the communities they serve. These needs range from creating performance spaces, to providing coffee shops, to housing art galleries. (*For more information about how libraries across the nation are transforming into public spaces, go to page 17*).

The Task Force has identified six priority service areas for the new library system:

- **Best sellers and hot topics:** To encourage interest in popular cultural and social trends with books, magazines, music, and other materials in a variety of print and electronic formats.
- **Basic literacy programs:** To help address the city's 37% adult illiteracy rate.
- **Information literacy programs:** To help people develop skills related to





# CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CITY THROUGH HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## What is the current situation in the District?

The District has more than 130 neighborhoods, each with its own character. While many of our neighborhoods are thriving, some newly so, many are still in decline. We have yet to lift all of our communities.

## Not enough affordable housing

Across our city, there is a lack of housing options in every neighborhood. According to the *DC Fiscal Policy Institute*, problems with housing affordability are concentrated among the District's lowest-income households. The area median income for a four-person household is \$25,440. Four out of five households with income *below* 30% of the area median income have unaffordable housing costs.

Our booming real estate market intensifies this problem. As demand for housing goes up, so does the price. When new housing is built, its costs reflect the market rate. As a result, more than one-third of District residents face monthly rental or mortgage payments that are out of reach.

- Thirty-four percent of District households earn less than \$30,000.
- In 2000, the gap between the number of affordable housing units and the number of households needing affordable housing was 8,225.
- Between 1999 and 2003, the median price of a single family home increased by more than 100%, from \$133,945 to \$269,900. From 2001 to 2002, rents increased by 50%. By comparison, median incomes increased by only 33% between 1999 and 2004.

## Unequal distribution of special needs housing

All of our neighborhoods can do a better job of supporting our special needs populations. The homeless, troubled youth, seniors, foster children, ex-offenders, people with HIV/AIDS, recovering substance abusers, mentally retarded and developmentally disabled, and others who may need extra help, are disproportionately placed in certain areas of our city. As a result, these communities have less room for developing the infrastructure necessary to their growth (i.e., new housing, more retail and recreational facilities).

Providing adequate housing for those with special needs will reduce the population in homeless shelters, allow service providers to target their efforts, relieve the burden on law enforcement, and fulfill our obligations to provide a decent quality of life for our residents. Our limited space means we must share this responsibility more equitably. In fact, the number of people needing special help is small. Among the District's 572,000 residents:

- 40,040 residents have physical disabilities.
- 22,880 residents have mental disabilities.



- 17,000 residents are homeless or in a shelter.
- 9,434 ex-offenders are released from prison annually.

## What does the District want to do about it?

The District has developed a strategy to increase opportunities for housing and build better neighborhoods throughout the city. (For more information, see page 18). Two components of this plan are to increase the availability of affordable housing and to distribute special needs housing more evenly across the city.

***The plan for affordable housing.*** The most economical way for the District to improve access to housing is to bring in dense, market-rate developments and require that *one-third* of the units be affordable. To ensure equitable distribution of new housing, the District's development plans will consider creating affordable housing in all neighborhoods with public transportation. Distributing development across the city will help create mixed-income neighborhoods instead of furthering economic segregation.

***The plan for special needs housing.*** The District's efforts to assist the special needs population is based on the availability of affordable units for rent or purchase. In addition, such housing needs to be accessible to support services and public transportation. Homes to meet the needs of our various special populations are hard to acquire. Competition for housing has reduced the number of available units overall and increased the price of any available units. Therefore, housing needs to be located all over the city, wherever possible.

## What do we need from you today?

In planning for new housing in a community (whether it is mixed-income units or special needs housing), there are always questions about the impact on residents' everyday lives or the long-term value of their property. Experts consider many of the following issues:

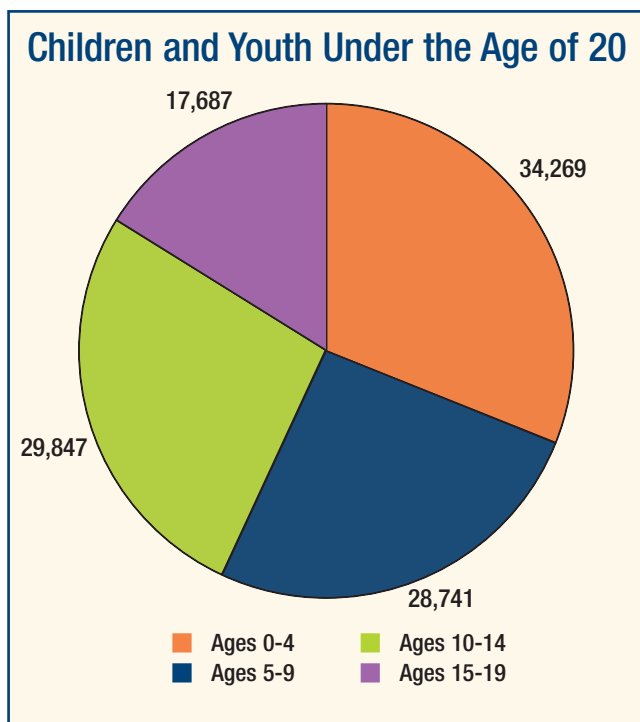
- How to balance residential and commercial development.
- How to ensure adequate parking and security.
- How the development will fit with the physical character of the neighborhood.
- How transportation systems (streets, sidewalks, bike paths, trains, car sharing) and other infrastructure will handle increased usage.

Keeping in mind the need to lift all of our communities, the District wants your input on how best to implement its plans. Consider the discussion questions:

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*Want to know more about this issue?  
Go to page 18*

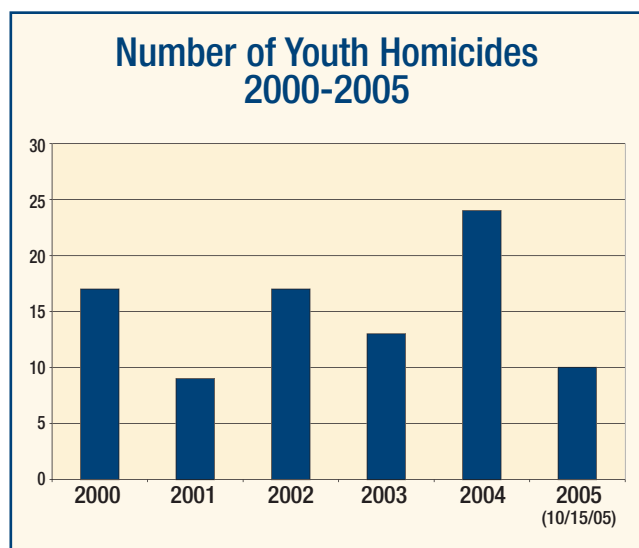
## A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



- In 2004, there were 110,544 children and youth under age 20 living in the District:
  - 26% were between ages 5 and 9.
  - 27% were between ages 10 and 14.
  - 16% were between ages 15 and 19.
- The distribution of children across the eight wards varies significantly. Nearly 40% of the city's children live in Wards 7 and 8.
- During 2003 and 2004, 465 youth and families involved in Family Court proceedings were referred to the Mayor's Services Liaison Office for coordination of service delivery among multiple District agencies.
- Facts about juvenile crime:
  - Although juvenile homicides nearly doubled from 2003 to 2004, the number in 2005 has fallen to 10 as of October 15.
  - Five of the 24 juvenile homicides in 2004 and three of the 10 in 2005 were at the hands of family members or caregivers and do not represent *crime by juveniles*.
  - 75% of juvenile homicides in 2004, and

92% of juvenile homicides in 2003, occurred in the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh police districts.

- Between January and October 2005 there were 308 arrests for violent crimes (homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault and robbery). Over the same time period in 2004, there were 337 such arrests.



### What were people's priorities in this area during recent Summits on youth?

At Citizen Summit III, and the more recent 2005 LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Summit, citizens said they wanted the District to:

- Increase the number, quality and operation hours of youth programs.
- Provide summer jobs for all youth who want them and increase access to information and opportunities for year-round employment and career-specific vocational training for out-of-school and older youth.



- Decrease teen dating violence, sexual assault (including same-sex dating violence) and teen-pregnancy and increase efforts to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth.
- Increase funds dedicated to inpatient and outpatient youth substance abuse treatment.
- Provide housing assistance and resources to homeless youth (especially LGBT youth who are estranged from their families and not always welcome in traditional shelters).
- Relieve tensions between youth and police by training police officers on working more effectively with young people.
- Better involve youth in planning and decision-making on youth issues in the city.

## What recent improvements have been made?

- The Department of Parks and Recreation constructed 9 new recreation centers in Wards 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8, while renovating 3 centers in Wards 4, 7 and 8.
- The District offered late-night teen programming for youth, including midnight basketball.
- The Metropolitan Police Department launched "Operation Prevent Auto Theft" through which Police work with juveniles

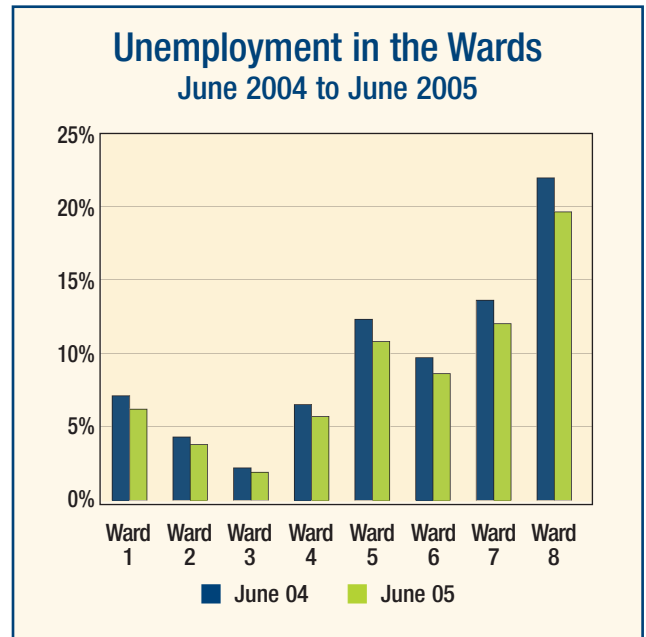
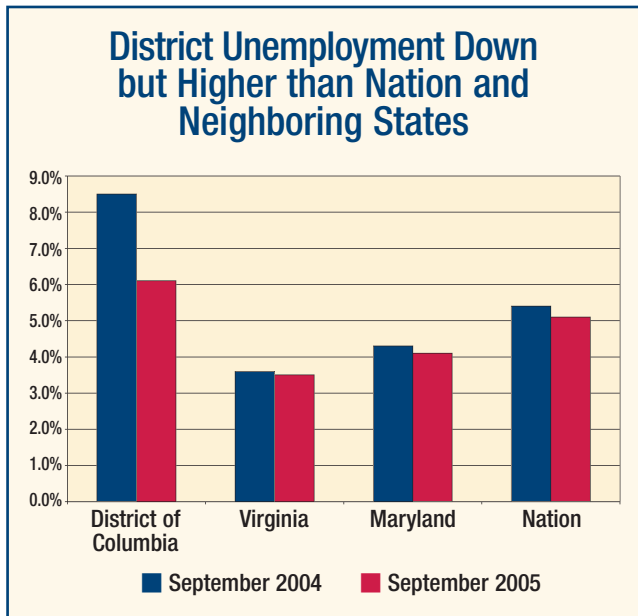
on probation for Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle *and* their parents.

- The Metropolitan Police Department assumed control over security in DC Public Schools. Nearly 100 police officers and 18 supervisors joined 296 contract security personnel to maintain the safety of school campuses.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT JOB PROSPECTS

- As of June 2005, the total number of unemployed District residents was 22,600.
- Ward 8 has the highest percentage of unemployment. As of June 2005, 19.6% of residents were unemployed. This is a slight decrease from 21.9% in the previous year.



- 10.8% of Ward 5 residents and 12.0% of Ward 7 residents were unemployed as of June 2005.

### What improvements have been made as a result of citizen feedback?

At Citizen Summit III, citizens said they wanted the District to pay more attention to:

- Job training.
- Adult literacy.
- Contractors hiring District residents.

Beginning in FY 2006, the District provided more than \$20 million in new funding for the *Way to Work Initiative*. Specifically, the *Way to Work Initiative*:

- Requires contractors receiving District dollars to pay employees a living wage.



- Requires contractors to hire 2,000 additional District residents and provides for enforcement of this commitment.
- Establishes a Job Opportunity Bank to train unemployed and underemployed residents.
- Strengthens the District's *First Source* Program in order to increase compliance with designated hiring requirements.
- Provides for transitional employment and pre-apprenticeship training (life skills and job readiness training, supportive services intervention, etc.).
- Funds the Youth Employment Initiative and Youth Leadership Institute for youth between the ages of 16 and 24.
- Increases the number of summer job placements for youth.





## A CLOSER LOOK AT DC PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- In 2005, the average age of the District's 27-branch libraries was 46 years.
- Many of the items on hand are outdated in terms of knowledge or physically worn and tattered.
- Hours of operation for the library were slashed in 2003 and are gradually being restored.
- Most of the existing branch libraries are candidates for replacement due to deferred maintenance, lack of planning for modern technology, and inefficient use of floor space.
- The central library facility's problems include inefficient use of space, a building design that makes it difficult to install technology, inappropriate lighting levels, sterile interior spaces, and inefficient staff work areas.
- There are no formal computer laboratories in the branch libraries. More than 360 computers linked to the Internet have been added by DCPL in the past several years, bringing the total to 511 in FY 2004. However, those figures remain significantly below the average number of public access computers when compared to similar sized cities.

### How are other cities creating world-class libraries?

Urban libraries in cities like Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; and Seattle, Washington provide their residents with state-of-the art facilities and world-class service. These libraries provide story times for toddlers, newspapers in foreign languages, literacy classes for adults, ample

copies of best sellers and support a wide variety of customer activities.

- **In Seattle, Washington**, the "Friends of the Seattle Public Library," a volunteer private group, has a membership of 13,000 that promotes library awareness in the community and raises money for library projects. The Seattle Public Library Foundation raised \$82 million for library construction and endowments, with more than 22,000 people making donations. The new Seattle central library has become an economic engine for the downtown area – responsible for \$16 million in new economic activity during the first year of operation.
- **The Hispanic Branch in Miami-Dade County Florida**, serves a neighborhood in which 90% of the residents are Hispanic. It has a collection of 60,000 items, 80% of them in Spanish, with emphasis on literature, history and linguistics. The Hispanic Branch also emphasizes English as a second language with books, audio books, videocassettes, and language instruction materials. More than fifty magazines in English and Spanish are available, as well as a bilingual video and book/cassette collection. Free programs include language and citizenship classes, Social Security information services, and a variety of cultural presentations.
- **The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL)** provides a wide variety of literacy-related programs. LAPL operates fifteen Literacy Centers in branch libraries and each literacy center's collection of books, videos, audiocassettes, and interactive computer-

based tutorials. In the Adult Literacy Program, learners work one-on-one with an adult tutor meeting in branches twice weekly for a minimum of six months. The “Families for Literacy” program provides free books to children under the age of five if a parent is enrolled in a literacy program.

## How are other cities creating public spaces in their libraries?

- The **Cerritos Library** in Cerritos, California is well known for having created a dynamic learning experience for its users. The entire library is also a museum, with exhibit spaces and museum-quality exhibits throughout. The children’s area offers educational opportunities through an extensive book collection, educational exhibits, electronic and on-line resources. The area also includes an Arts Studio for arts and crafts activities and a Little Theater for story time and other programs for children of all ages.

- The lobby of the **Nashville Public Library** serves as its public space, complete with a mezzanine and an art gallery. The library also contains a 230-seat auditorium with a green room, sound system, and videoconferencing equipment as well as a children’s theater is equipped for marionette and other shows.
- In addition to auditorium seating, a story theater, and exhibit space, the **Central Library in Los Angeles** also provides space for a mini-food court with three eating options inside the library, a gift shop to raise money for the Library Foundation, and Maguire Gardens, a 1.5 acre public park adjoining the library.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Between 1999 and 2004, over 30,000 *market-rate* housing units were either completed or in the pipeline; the majority were in Wards 1, 2, and 6.
- Between 1999 and 2004, over 17,000 *affordable* housing units were either completed or in the pipeline; 78% were rental units, 38% were in Ward 8.
- Of the 9,375 affordable housing units completed between 1999 and 2004, 46% are in Ward 8 and 16% are in Ward 7.
- In 2000, DC had 274,845 housing units. Of these, 40% were owned and 60% were rented. Homeownership is highest in Wards 3 and 4; lowest in Wards 1 and 8.
- In 2000, DC had 18,954 units of public and subsidized housing, down 7.6% from 20,512 units in 1998.
- Give tax relief to homeowners and non-homeowners alike.
- Increase general housing production to accommodate more people.
- Create more special-needs housing for the elderly, developmentally disabled, sick, etc.

The Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) committed funding more than \$107 million to create or retain 4,605 units of affordable housing from 2002 to 2005. In FY 2005, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) spent more than \$29 million in HPTF monies, financing 282 affordable housing units, with the majority of units serving residents whose incomes were at or less than 30% percent of the area median income (AMI).

In FY 2005, DHCD loaned \$15 million in HPTF dollars to three lenders under the newly established *Site Acquisition Funding Initiative*. This initiative helps non-profit housing developers secure funding. Since this initiative began, two of the three program lenders have reported loan activity of nine applications, totaling \$22.7 million, for a projected 521 *additional* affordable housing units. This provides a match of greater than one private dollar for each public dollar.

Some examples of developments funded by the HPTF are:

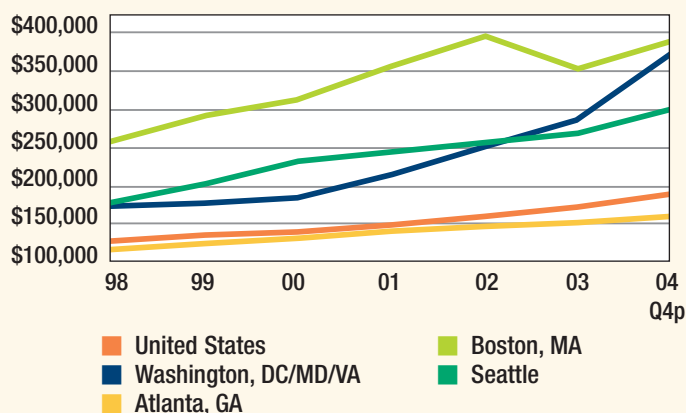
- The Four Walls Development, a 15-unit \$1.5 million rental rehabilitation project. Located in Ward 7, this project required almost \$800,000, or 51%, in HPTF financing.
- The 12-unit, New Day, transitional housing project located in Ward 8. This project is a \$1.6 million affordable housing development for families coming out of

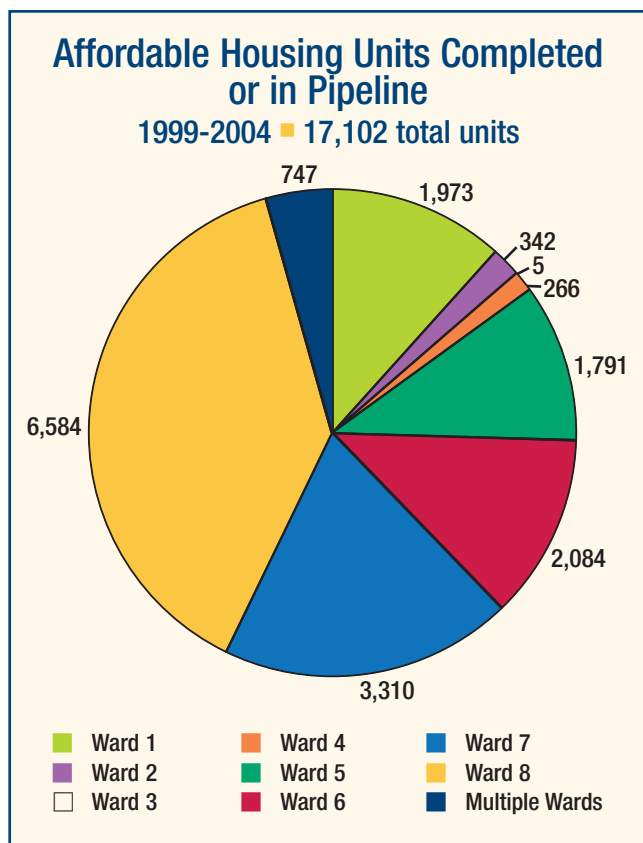
### What improvements have been made as a result of citizen feedback?

At Citizen Summit III, citizens said they wanted the District to:

- Solve neighborhood blight.
- Build more affordable housing.

**Median Sale Price of Single Family Homes**  
Since 2000, the District's Single Family Home Median Sale Price has Significantly Increased Each Year





homelessness, which was funded entirely with HPTF financing.

- The Jubilee Housing Renovation Phase I, a 118-unit, four-building project located in Ward 1. This project received \$3.5 million in HPTF dollars, in addition to home funds and tax credits. This renovation's total cost is \$20.5 million.

**The District's housing strategy** is comprised of several core initiatives. Some are already underway and others are slated to begin in the coming year.

1. **New Communities: Strengthening Vulnerable Neighborhoods.** The New Communities initiative will work in partnership with neighborhoods to ensure affordable housing and end economic segregation. This will be achieved through mixed-income development, low-income

homeownership opportunities, and one-to-one replacement of low-income housing units. This initiative also will provide community support services and enhanced access to education and employment. One of our first projects will be to invest in Northwest One.

2. **Great Streets: Fostering Neighborhood Economic Development.** Great Streets will extend the economic success of downtown DC to the neighborhoods. The goal is to transform underinvested corridors into vibrant neighborhood centers filled with shops and businesses, attractive street-scapes, excited patrons, and supportive residents. Through this initiative, DC's main arteries will become destinations.
3. **Tax Relief for All: Broad and Progressive Tax Cuts.** Lowering taxes keeps more money in our citizens' pockets. Tax relief also helps lower- and middle-income residents maintain their homes, despite rising assessments. The District is offering millions in tax relief for District residents and homeowners, including:
  - An increase in the Homestead Deduction from \$38,000 to \$60,000. This provides \$211 in savings to each homeowner.
  - A property tax deferral for households with incomes of less than \$50,000.
  - A property tax relief for disabled residents.
  - A local Earned Income Tax Credit to match the federal credit.
4. **"Homeless No More."** The District has developed a 10-year plan to reduce chronic homelessness by providing:
  - More subsidized housing.
  - New housing assistance centers.
  - Eviction prevention services.
  - Wraparound services for homeless individuals and families.



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# ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

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**T**he Neighborhood Action initiative works to connect the District government directly to its residents by giving them a voice in setting priorities for the city and the communities they call home. Working closely with the community offices in the Executive Office of the Mayor, Neighborhood Action is committed to engaging all levels of the community including Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the faith-based community, community organizations, and local business leaders.

## **Office of Neighborhood Action**

Provides strategic planning, agency and community coordination, education, and Citizen Summit services to meet citywide priorities and engage residents in government operations. (202) 724-7681

## **Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

Advises the Mayor, the Council, and the District government on the views, needs, and concerns of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the District. (202) 727-3120

## **Office of Boards and Commissions**

Reviews and makes recommendations to the Mayor for appointments to more than 150 advisory, policy making, licensing, adjudicatory and legislative boards, commissions, and committees. Promotes citizen input and participation in the selection of residents to serve on boards and commissions. (202) 727-1372

## **Office of Community Affairs**

Serves as a direct link between District residents, the Mayor, and the District Government. (202) 442-8150

## **DC Youth Advisory Council (DCYAC)**

Responsible for influencing change on legislation and policies that impact youth, and for creating more youth and adult partnerships. DCYAC is made up of 32 diverse members from across the District ranging in age from 13-22. (202) 727-7976

## **Office on Latino Affairs**

Ensures that the Latino community has full access to quality health, education, employment, and social services in the District. (202) 671-2825

## **Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs**

Addresses and defines the concerns of the District's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents and finds innovative ways of utilizing government resources to help address these issues. (202) 727-3000

## **Office of Partnerships and Grants Development**

Offers services and assistance to increase the capacity of District government agencies and nonprofit organizations to be informed about and successfully compete for all available federal, District, and foundation grant dollars. (202) 727-8900

## **Serve DC**

Supports and strengthens community service through partnerships, national service, and volunteerism. (202) 727-7925

## **Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA)**

Advocates on behalf of District veterans and their families, and assists them in obtaining veteran services and benefits. OVA recognizes the military service and sacrifice of District veterans with commemorative programs and events. (202) 724-5454

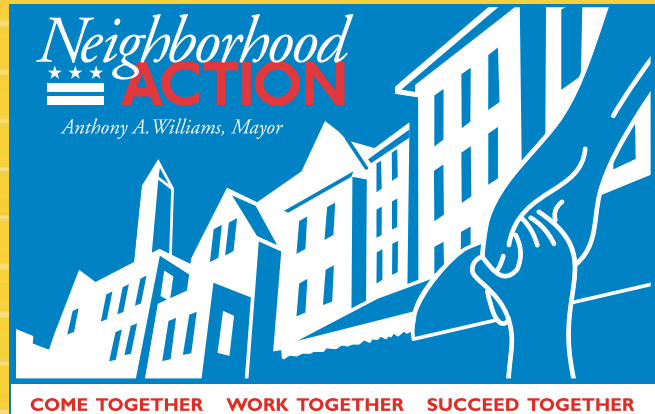
# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the thousands of District residents who participated in previous Citizen Summits and community meetings, the following organizations deserve special recognition for the time they dedicated to developing Citizen Summit IV: AmericaSpeaks, Special ProjX, OneCounts, and CoVision.

Neighborhood Action acknowledges the Office of the City Administrator, along with the Deputy Mayors and their staff, for their help in making Citizen Summit IV a success. A special 'thank you' goes to all the members of the Citizen Summit IV Citizen Advisory Board.

Neighborhood Action would also like to extend its deepest gratitude to the following partner organizations for their generous support of Citizen Summit IV:

- Casey Foundation
- Fannie Mae Foundation
- Freddie Mac Foundation



COME TOGETHER WORK TOGETHER SUCCEED TOGETHER

## Neighborhood Action Contact Information

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## About AmericaSpeaks

AmericaSpeaks is a non-profit organization that engages citizens in the most important public decisions that impact their lives. Since 1997, AmericaSpeaks has conducted 21st Century Town Meetings across the country and around the world on such subjects as the redevelopment of the World Trade Center after 9/11, the creation of Washington, D.C.'s municipal budget and Citizen Summit process, and the development of global priorities at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. ([www.americaspeaks.org](http://www.americaspeaks.org))